

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 OMB-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 MCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4879

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SZ

SUBJECT: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS (INCLUDING RESUMED 31ST UNGA)

REF: STATE 205678

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED RESUMED 31ST UNGA AND 32ND REGULAR SESSION AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL WITH MINISTER FRANCESCA POMETTA (ACTING FIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS) AND FRANZ MUHEIM (CHIEF, UN AFFAIRS) IN FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT ON SEPT 1. SWISS WERE KEENLY INTERESTED IN US VIEWS ON ISSUES AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CONSULTATIONS. AS INSTRUCTED, EMBOFF DID NOT RAISE UN SCLAE OF ASSESSMENTS (PARA 11.3 REFTEL). ALL OTHER ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED OR TOUCHED ON BRIEFLY. SWISS MADE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC REMARKS:

2. POMETTA STATED THAT SWISS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HAD JUST GIVEN APPROVAL TO GOVT RECOMMENDATION THAT SWITZERLAND JOIN UN. FURTHERMORE, COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT SPECIFIC DATE FEW YEARS FROM NOW (PERHAPS 1980) BE SET FOR PUPULAR REFERENDUM RATHER THAN LEAVE DATE OPEN FOR POPULAR VOTE AS GOVT'S REPORT HAD DONE IN VIEW OF PRESENT PUBLIC HESITANCE FOR UN MEMBERSHIP.
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POMETTA SAID, THEREFORE, THAT SWISS WOULD BE REINFORCING THEIR ATTENTION TO UN ACTIVITIES.

3. ON DISARMAMENT, POMETTA ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION ON US VIEWS REGARDING TOPIC OF QTE WEAPONS CAUSING SUPERFLUOUS INJURIES UNQTE, WHICH SHE SAID WAS FAR-REACHING PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY SWEDES THAT HAS SUPPORT OF SEVERAL OTHER

COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SWITZERLAND. SHE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THIS ITEM BE HANDLED IN AD HOC COMMITTEE OR EVEN BY UN CONFERENCE. POMETTA SAID SHE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CURRENT US VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. SHE BELIEVED US HAD BEEN COLD TO IT INITIALLY AND THAT SOVIETS HAD SAID IT WAS PROBLEM TO BE DISCUSSED IN DISARMAMENT CONTEXT.

4. REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND POST OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (PARA 10.A REFTEL), POMETTA SAID SHE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING MORE DETAILS ON US VIEWS AND PLANS FOR ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ESPECIALLY US IDEAS ON POSSIBLE POWERS OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SWISS SAID THEY EXPECT RESOLUTION ON PROTOCOLS I AND II ON HUMANITARIAN LAW, AND ASKED FOR STATUS OF US POSITION REGARDING COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. POMETTA SAID HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME AN ESPECIAL TOPICAL ISSUE

IN SWITZERLAND ON WHICH THE GOVT HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY NUMEROUS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IN REGARD TO TORTURE (PARA 10 C REFTEL) SWISS WONDERED WHAT KIND OF WORKING GROUP US HAD IN MIND TO MONITOR TORTURE ALLEGATIONS.

5. ON SUBJECT OF RESUMED 31ST UNGA, SWISS SAID THEY HAD HEARD YUGOSLAVS INTENDED TO PUT FORWARD MODERATE RESOLUTION ON BEHALF G-77 TO CONTINUE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. SWISS SAID THEIR INFORMATION INDICATED YUGOSLAV DRAFT RESOLUTION MADE NO MENTION OF MINISTERIAL UN CONFERENCE TO CAP OFF FURTHER DIALOGUE, OR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OVERVIEW MECHANISM TO REVIEW AND MONITOR NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. SWISS ASKED WHETHER US THOUGHT G-8 COMMITMENT UNDER PARIS SPECIAL ACTION GROUP WOULD BE RAISED AT UNGA.

6. MUHEIM RAISED SUBJECT OF TRANSFER OF UN BODIES TO VIENNA. ALTHOUGH NOT ON AGENDA, AND SYG REPORT IS SCHEDULED FOR 1978, SWISS BELIEVE IT POSSIBLY COULD BE RAISED IN SOME OTHER CONTEXT. MUHEIM

ASKED WHETHER US EXPECTS ANY INTERVENTION ON THE ISSUE THIS YEAR, AND WHAT US EXPECTS TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID SOME 70 UN PROFESSIONALS HAVE SO FAR BEEN DESIGNATED FOR TRANSFER FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA, LEAVING 180 MORE TO BE SELECTED. HE ASKED IF US HAS ANY IDEA FROM WHICH UN AGENCIES THESE REMAINING PROFESSIONALS WOULD BE CHOSEN. MUHEIM SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY RESULTS OF US MEETING THIS SUMMER WITH UNDER SYG DAVIDSON ON TRANSFER ISSUE. SWISS HAVE MEETING SCHEDULED WITH DAVIDSON FOR LATE SEPTEMBER. MUHEIM ALSO ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF U.S. REQUEST TO TRANSFER HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

7. MUHEIM ALSO ASKED IF US EXPECTED ANOTHER EFFORT BY CUBA TO ENTER RESOLUTION AS IN PAST TWO UNGAS THAT 50 PERCENT OF COST OF INFLATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSSES OF UN ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE

BORNE BY HOST COUNTRY, I.E., US.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REQUESTED BY SWISS, PARTICULARLY US VIEWS ON
ISSUE OF TRANSFER OF UN AGENCIES.
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